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1958

January 3

Adelard E. Cote, Commissioner
Department of Labor
State House
Concord, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Cote:

In your letter of December 30, 1957, you request an interpretation of Laws 1957, chapter 278, sections 1 and 2. You state that it appears there may be a conflict between the provisions of these sections in that section 1 permits the employment of minors under fourteen years of age in farm or domestic labor but that section 2, which limits the number of hours per day and week during which minors under the age of sixteen years may be employed, does not appear to exempt farm and domestic labor.

Prior to the enactment of Laws 1957, chapter 278, section 1, RSA 276:1 prohibited the employment of children under fourteen years of age in any occupation except farm or domestic labor. The effect of Laws 1957, chapter 278, section 1 is simply to add three other categories of employment in addition to the farm and domestic labor in which children under fourteen years of age may be employed.

Again, prior to the enactment of Laws 1957, chapter 278, section 2, RSA 276:6 limited the number of hours per day and week during which minors under sixteen years of age could be employed in any occupation, but specifically exempted domestic service or work on a farm from its provisions. Laws of 1957, chapter 278, section 2 omitted the exemption of domestic service or work on a farm from the hours of labor set therein for minors under sixteen years of age. In other words, as a result of these two amendments, children under fourteen years of age may still be employed at farm or domestic labor but if they are under sixteen years of age they are now subject to the hours of labor as provided in Laws 1957, chapter 278, section 2. Accordingly, there does not appear to be any conflict between the provisions of these two sections.

Sincerely yours,

John J. Zimmerman
Assistant Attorney General

JJZ/lt

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